

House Bill 1442

By: Representatives Sinkfield of the 60<sup>th</sup>, Lucas of the 139<sup>th</sup>, Stephenson of the 92<sup>nd</sup>, Ashe of the 56<sup>th</sup>, Jamieson of the 28<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Code Section 46-4-160 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the authority of the Public Service Commission regarding certificated marketers, access to books and records, investigations and hearings, price summary, billing, violations, and slamming, so as to provide for a specific period of time from the mailing or posting of a bill for natural gas before the application of late fees or penalties on a consumer; to change the maximum late fee; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Code Section 46-4-160 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the authority of the Public Service Commission regarding certificated marketers, access to books and records, investigations and hearings, price summary, billing, violations, and slamming, is amended by striking subsection (h) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(h) A marketer shall render a bill to retail customers for services within 30 days of the date following the monthly meter reading. A marketer's bill shall utilize the results of the actual meter reading subject to paragraph (8) of Code Section 46-4-158.2. The price for natural gas billed to a natural gas consumer shall not exceed the marketer's published price effective at the beginning of the consumer's billing cycle. A marketer shall allow the natural gas consumer ~~a reasonable period of time~~ at least 20 days, plus an eight-day grace period, to pay the bill from the date the ~~consumer receives~~ marketer mails or electronically posts the bill, prior to the application of any late fees or penalties. Marketers shall not impose unreasonable late fees or penalties and in no event shall any such fees or penalties exceed \$10.00 or 1.5 percent of the past due balance, whichever is greater."

**SECTION 2.**

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.